

Application Serial No. 09/919,794
Reply to Office Action dated January 18, 2008

APR 08 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on April 1, 2008. During the interview, claim changes were discussed with the Examiner with reference to claim 1. The claim changes discussed with the Examiner are presented in this amendment, along with some additional claim changes which are further seen to distinguish the present invention from the prior art. No new subject matter has been added by these amendments.

Currently, claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,390,005 to Kimoto et al. In general, Kimoto et al. is directed to an operation panel indicating method for a copying machine. During the interview with the Examiner, it was noted that the Examiner was comparing Kimoto et al. with Figure 2A of the present invention. However, the present invention as claimed is reflected in Figure 2B, not Figure 2A.

In general, the invention is directed to an information display system for an appliance incorporating an electronic interface screen. As set forth in accordance with the preferred embodiment outlined in the specification, a plurality of zones 15-20 are depicted in Figure 2B. Error codes are depicted in display zone 18 and, although not shown, additional selectable data would be displayed in one or more of zones 15-17 and 20. See paragraph 0021. The present invention provides for enlarging zone 18 to encompass the entire display 10 as represented in screen 300. At the same time, an additional layer of information is added to the first set of information that was in zone 18 of the display, with the additional information giving further details as to the first layer of information. None of the applied prior art performs a corresponding method. Regardless, in order to more distinctly claim the present invention, independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to specifically require that the second set of information joins the first set of information in the enlarged zone, such that both the first and second sets of information substantially, entirely encompass the screen. Kimoto et al. clearly does not include such a limitation. The Applicant notes that the present invention is not

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merely claiming a submenu as set forth in Kimoto et al. Instead, the present invention allows a **set of information** to become enlarged and joined by a second set of information representing additional details concerning the first set of information, such that both sets of information substantially, entirely encompass the screen. In this way, if the user has experience interpreting the diagnostic codes, then no further information on the data is required. However, if the user is not experienced in the interpretation of the diagnostic codes, an additional selection can be made causing zone 18 to enlarge so as to substantially, entirely encompass the screen as represented by screen 300 in Figure 2B.

During the interview, the Examiner asserted that the screens shown in Kimoto et al. include "a first set of information" displayed in "one of a plurality of zones". However, the Applicant respectfully submits that the selection buttons on the key pad of the Kimoto et al. copy machine do not show "a first set of information" displayed in "one of a plurality of zones" as claimed. Instead, Kimoto et al. simply shows a screen providing operating **options** to a user and, upon selecting one of the available options, a subsequent selection screen is provided to present additional operating options to the user. These available options are not analogous to the sets of information disclosed and claimed in connection with the present invention. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is viewing the term "a plurality of zones" unreasonably broad by holding that this limitation is met by the multiple operating option buttons of Kimoto et al. Although the Applicant disagrees with this interpretation, in order to further the prosecution, amendments were made to independent claims 1, 8 and 15 to specify that the plurality of zones constitute **selectable zones**.

In addition, during the course of the interview, it was noted that the Examiner was equating the help button shown in the figures of Kimoto et al. with the claimed "diagnostic code". The Applicant disagrees with this interpretation. In the appliance art, the term "diagnostic code" has a clear meaning and is not the same as a help button. This is especially clear when the claims are interpreted in light of the specification. None of the prior art is seen to teach or suggest this feature.

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On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner further rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,708,787 to Nakano et al. However, Nakano et al. also fails to meet all of the claim limitations for the same reasons stated above with respect to Kimoto et al. More specifically, Nakano et al. does not teach the method of claim 1 including displaying a first set of information in one of a plurality of selectable zones and causing the first set of information to become enlarged and joined by a second set of information representing additional details concerning the first set of information, such that both sets of information substantially, entirely encompass the screen. Again, the present invention is not directed to a submenu as set forth in Nakano et al.

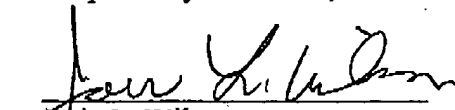
On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,818,428 to Eisenbrandt et al. Claim 20 is patentably distinct for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 15. Further, the Examiner admits that Nakano et al. does not teach that the domestic appliance is a laundry appliance. Instead, the Examiner relies on Eisenbrandt et al., which is directed to an appliance control system. The Applicant does not argue that appliance control systems are new. Nor does the Applicant argue that submenu-type controls are new. Instead, the Applicant submits that the method and system for displaying information for an appliance as set forth in the present invention is novel and not taught by any of the applied prior art, either taken singly or in combination.

Based on the above remarks and amendments to the claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined over the prior art of record such that allowance of all claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional questions or concerns regarding this matter or has any additional recommendations that would held to further

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prosecution, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below in order to further prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,


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